

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An all terrain vehicle comprising:

a chassis carrying a straddle-type seat which is sufficiently narrow to be straddled by a rider;

5 a pair of front wheels mounted to the chassis, and handlebars connected to the front wheels for steering the front wheels;

a pair of rear wheels mounted to the chassis;

a laterally extending footrest on one side of the chassis; and

10 an engine carried by the chassis and connected to a manual transmission which in turn is connected to a drive train supplying motive power to at least some of the wheels, the transmission including a foot-operable shift lever located on one side of the chassis adjacent the footrest for shifting the transmission among a plurality of forward gears;

15 the footrest having generally horizontal heel and toe portions, the shift lever being positioned above the toe portion of the footrest, and the toe portion being positioned lower than the heel portion, permitting a rider to depress the shift lever to a position lower than the heel portion of the footrest.

20 2. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 wherein the shift lever is positioned above the toe portion and forwardly of the heel portion a sufficient distance to permit the rider to insert at least a portion of a foot beneath the shift lever, allowing the rider to move the shift lever upward to shift the manual transmission.

3. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 wherein the heel and toe portions are defined by a continuous platform having a width of at least about four inches and a length of at least about one foot.

25 4. The all terrain vehicle of claim 3 wherein the platform is configured and arranged so as to prevent a toe of a rider's shoe from extending therethrough.

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5. The all terrain vehicle of claim 3 wherein the platform optionally includes one or more holes to permit water to drain therethrough, no such hole being sufficiently large to permit a toe of a rider's foot to extend therethrough.

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6. The all terrain vehicle of claim 3 wherein the platform optionally includes one or more holes to permit water to drain therethrough, such holes being sized and positioned to prevent a rider's shoe from extending therethrough.

7. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 further comprising a cleat disposed at a forward edge of the heel portion, the cleat having an upper surface positioned higher than the heel portion of the footrest.

8. The all terrain vehicle of claim 7 wherein the heel and toe portions of the footrest are defined by a continuous platform, the cleat being formed integrally with the platform and defining the forward edge of the heel portion and a rearward edge of the toe portion of the footrest.

9. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 wherein the shift lever is movable vertically through a range of motion having upper and lower ends, the shift lever being spaced above the toe portion of the footrest when the shift lever is at its lower end of movement.

10. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 wherein the shift lever is spaced at least about three inches forwardly of the heel portion of the footrest.

11. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 wherein the heel and toe portions of the footrest are defined by a generally rectangular platform, the footrest including front, rear and side walls extending upwardly from edges of the platform.

12. The all terrain vehicle of claim 11 wherein the footrest is disposed between one of the front wheels and one of the rear wheels, the all terrain vehicle including a front fender associated with such front wheel and a rear fender associated with such rear wheel.

13. The all terrain vehicle of claim 12 wherein the front wall of the footrest forms a part of the front fender.

14. The all terrain vehicle of claim 12 wherein the rear wall of the footrest forms a part of the rear fender.

15. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 wherein the footrest has a width of at least about four inches and a length of at least about one foot.

16. The all terrain vehicle of claim 1 wherein the footrest has a width of at least about five inches and a length of at least about fifteen inches

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17. An all terrain vehicle comprising:

5 a chassis carrying a straddle-type seat which is sufficiently narrow to be straddled by a rider;

a pair of front wheels mounted to the chassis, and handlebars connected to the front wheels for steering the front wheels;

a pair of rear wheels mounted to the chassis;

laterally extending footrests on opposite sides of the chassis; and

10 an engine carried by the chassis and connected to a manual transmission which in turn is connected to a drive train supplying motive power to at least some of the wheels, the transmission including a foot-operable shift lever located on one side of the chassis adjacent one of the footrests for shifting the transmission among a plurality of forward gears;

15 the footrest located adjacent to the foot-operable shift lever having generally horizontal heel and toe portions, the toe portion being positioned lower than the heel portion and the shift lever being positioned at generally the same height as heel portion.

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18. An all terrain vehicle comprising:

20 a chassis carrying a straddle-type seat which is sufficiently narrow to be straddled by a rider;

a pair of front wheels mounted to the chassis, and handlebars connected to the front wheels for steering the front wheels;

a pair of rear wheels mounted to the chassis;

a laterally extending footrest on one side of the chassis; and

25 an engine carried by the chassis and connected to a manual transmission which in turn is connected to a drive train supplying motive power to at least some of the wheels, the transmission including a foot-operable shift lever located on one side of the chassis adjacent the footrest for shifting the transmission among a plurality of forward gears;

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the footrest having heel and toe portions, the toe portion being positioned lower than the heel portion.

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